

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5303

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 30559

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: EC SUMMIT: GOF VIEWS

1. SUMMARY: SENIOR QUAI OFFICIAL HAS GIVEN US HIS VIEW OF EC SUMMIT BALANCE SHEET, STRESSING PROGRESS ON INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF SUMMIT PROCESS, AND FRENCH DESIRE TO KEEP UK IN EC - BUT NOT AT ANY PRICE. END SUMMARY

2. IN DISCUSSION WITH POLCOUNSELOR DECEMBER 18, DE MARGERIE (QUAI DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS) DESCRIBED FRENCH REACTION TO EC SUMMIT. HE SAID SUMMIT HAD PRODUCED "POSITIVE" IMPRESSION LARGELY BECAUSE ITS RESULTS EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS. KEY SUCCESSES WERE IN
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AREAS OF INSTITUTIONAL REFORM AND UK RENEGOTIATION.

THERE WAS LESS AGREEMENT ON OTHER SUBJECTS (E.G. ENERGY).

3. INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS -- EUROPEAN COUNCIL WAS MAJOR INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF SUMMIT IN FRENCH VIEW. ACCORDING TO DE MARGERIE, WAY IS NOW CLEAR FOR HEADS OF EC GOVERNMENTS TO MEET IN RESTRICTED SESSIONS, WITH NO NEED (OR TEMPTATION) "TO PLAY TO THE GALLERY". THIS NEW PROCEDURE, SAID DE MARGERIE, CAN LEAD PROGRESSIVELY TO A NEW FORM OF EC CONSULTATION. HE CONCLUDED THAT AN IMPORTANT EVOLUTION HAS BEGUN. HE WAS MORE SUBDUED IN HIS ANALYSIS OF OTHER INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES (MAJORITY VOTING AND DIRECT ELECTION OF EC PARLIAMENT), SAYING THAT LOW KEY COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE CONCERNING THEM WILL NOT LEAD EUROPEANS TO HAVE EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS LEADING TO DISAPPOINTMENT. HE CONCLUDED THAT INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS SIGNALLED BY SUMMIT WILL ENABLE EC INSTITUTIONS TO HANDLE THE "STORM" THAT EVERYONE EXPECTS TO ENGULF EUROPE.

4. UK RENEGOTIATION: DE MARGERIE SAID THAT SUMMIT'S COMPROMISE ON UK RENEGOTIATION DEMONSTRATED THAT GISCARD IS MOTIVATED BY LONG-TERM POLICY OF KEEPING UK IN THE EC -- BUT NOT AT ANY PRICE. FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS WILSON MAY HAVE MAGNIFIED DEGREE OF SUMMIT'S "AGREEMENT" ON THIS SUBJECT. IN FACT, SUBSTANTIAL AND HARD NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT ACCEPTABLE FORMULA TO DEAL WITH UK'S EC BUDGET PROBLEM. ELABORATING ON POINT REPORTED IN PARIS 29641, PARA 5, DE MARGERIE SAID THAT FRANCE COULD NOT AGREE TO CHANGE IN MECHANISM FOR TURNING OVER TO EC BUDGET THE PROCEEDS FROM COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF. NOR COULD THERE BE CHANGE IN SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURAL LEVIES AS SOURCE FOR EC BUDGET. BUT, HE SAID, EC MIGHT EXAMINE CHANGES IN TVA PORTION CONTRIBUTED TO EC BUDGET BY EACH NATION AS WAY TO MEET UK PROBLEM.

5. COMMENT: DE MARGERIE'S COMMENTS ON GISCARD'S DESIRE TO KEEP THE UK IN THE EC, COUPLED WITH HIS HARD LINE ON DETAILS OF UK PROBLEM WITH EC BUDGET ACCORD
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WITH OUR EARLIER ANALYSIS OF THE SUMMIT'S OUTCOME
(PARIS 29779 PARA 3).
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